THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information in regard to the allegations contained in the Press Report and the stage of investigation into the matter is being collected from the State Government of Punjab, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**गुजरात में बेसहारा महिलाओं के स्व-रोजगार हेतु योजनाएं**

3605. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार द्वारा गुजरात में बेसहारा महिलाओं के कल्याण और स्व-रोजगार हेतु लागू की गई योजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) उन्हें किस तरह से वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध कराई जाती है;

(ग) क्या व्यक्तिगत और स्वयंसेवी संगठनों को दी जाने वाली सहायता के मामले में अलग-अलग मानदण्ड अपनाए जाते हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

**सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मेनका गांधी):** (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

**Schemes for mentally retarded in Maharashtra**

3606. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any welfare schemes for the persons with cerebral palsy and mental retardation in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some voluntary organisations are also working in the State in this field; and

(d) if so, the details of such organisations and how Government are helping such organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam, A Scheme of Assistance to Organisations for Persons with Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation, is implemented in the country including the State of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) During the year 1997-98 two organisations in Maharashtra have been given grant-in-aid under the Scheme, namely, Vallabhdas Dagara Indian Society for Mentally Retarded, Mumbai and Association for the welfare of persons with a Mental Handicap, Mumbai.

**Schemes for disabled persons in Maharashtra**

3607. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing welfare schemes for the disabled persons particularly, for the blinds in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. During the year 1997-98, National Association for the Blind, Mumbai, Helen Keller Institute for the Deaf & Deaf Blind, Mumbai, and National Federation for the Blind, Mumbai, were released grant-in-aid for implementing welfare schemes.